4° L. 70 Art

A Strange Report of Sixe most notorious VVitches, who by their diueliſh practiſes murdred aboue the number of foure hundred ſmall Children: beſides the great hurtes they committed vpon diuers other people:

Who for the ſame, and many other like offences, were executed in the princely Cittie of *Manchen* in high *Germanie* the.29. of Iuly. 1600.

Printed at *Nuremberge* by *Lucas Mayr* Ingrauer, dwelling in *Kramergeſle*: and now tranſlated out of Dutch, according to the ſame Coppy there imprinted.

AT LONDON,
Printed by *W. W.* for *T. Pauier*, dwelling at the ſigne of the Cat and Parrets neare the Exchange.
1601.

HARVARD COLLEGE
1933
LIBRARY

4° L. 70 Art

The ſtrange Report of Sixe moſt notorious VVitches.

THere is not anie Chriſtian (I am ſure) but in heart will relent, and with great admiration, lift vp his eyes toward heauen, and ſtande amazed at the wicked practiſes of ſix of the moſt notorious wicked Witches that euer they heard of: who (giuing both bodyes and ſoules to eternall damnation) committed ſo many inhumaine Murders, ſo many ſtrange Robberies, Pillages, and Riottes; ſpoyling both Corne and Cattle: cauſing ſtrange hayle and tempeſt, and ſuch like annoyances to the inhabitantes of Germanie, that I thinke it a matter worthy to be kept in memorie, whereby the ſhamefull end of ſuch malefactors, may ſerue as a notable example to our eyes, a griefe to the godly, and a terrour to the wicked and reprobate people. The names of theſe vile offendours, and of their wicked dealings, hereafter followeth.

First, Paule Gamperle, *alias* Poppenhamor.

Second, Anne Gamperle, wife to the said Paule.

Third, Simon Gamperle, } their two Sonnes.
Fourth, Iacob Gamperle, }

Fifth, Vllrich Scheltibaum, Armozour.

Sixth, George Smallts, Taylor.

These sixe persons, being many yeeres (before this) held in great suspition for practising Witchcraft, yet not any sufficient proofe thereof, were now taken altogeather, neare to the Towne of Detwenge, in a Caue or Vault deepe in the ground, where many times before they had likewise met, and as they thought, there to remaine still secure from the knowledge of their neighbours, fel to their accustomed practises: and by their Witchcraftes rayled so great a storme or tempest, that all the Townes and Villages were greatly indamaged thereby: But God not suffering these vile offendours to remaine any longer vndiscouered, brought all their actions to light: and by the howling of a Dogge stroken madd with the fearefulnes of that tempest, certaine of their neighbours were brought to the sayd Caue or Vault, where they weare all sixe attached, and the next day, being the xviiii. of July, were brought before the Gouernour of Man-

chen,

4° L. 70 Art

chen, who finding them guiltie by their examinations, commaunded them to pꝛiſon.

But now marke what happened: the Gouernours Clarke oꝛ Secretarie, when he tooke paper in his hand to make a Warrant, ſodaynely both his feete were taken from him: by reaſon whereof he had ſuch a fal, that the huckle bone of his thigh was ſtroken out of ioynt, whereof within thꝛee dayes after he dyed.

Herebpon the Gouernour commaunded them to be ſearcht by his Officers, where they founde hidden vnder euery one of their cloathes next to their ſkinnes, a bagge of Swines dounge: which being taken away, ſtounke ſo fylthely, that no man could indure the ſmell. And in Paule Gamperles boſome, (beeing their pꝛincipall, oꝛ ring-leader) they founde a diuelliſh Booke of Coniuration, and the picture of a man made in Tinne, holding in his hande a ſcꝛowle oꝛ wꝛiting, conteyning theſe thꝛee woꝛdes, *Magell, Cumath, Hellbeza*: By the ſame, were ſo plainely manifeſted their wicked pꝛactiſes, that they immediately confeſſed (without any further trouble) all their murders and execrable feates that euer they had committed in their life times, as it doth well appeare hereafter.

The

The Confession of Paule Gamperle.

PAule Gamperle, *alias* Poppenhamor, of the age of eight and fiftie yeeres, confessed that he had vsed the practise of Witch-craft from his childhood, and that he had bin trained vp in the same by his olde Graundmother, a woman dead many yeeres agoe.

In like maner he confessed, that he had murthered in his time by Witch-craft and sorcery, about the number of a hundred small children.

In like maner he confessed, that he had made lame and crooked ten of the richest Cittizens of Manchen, because they would not forgiue him certaine debts he owed them.

In like maner he confessed, that by Witch-craft he had made away two of his Vncles, to come by their goodes.

In like maner he confessed ten Church-robberies, fiftene Murthers by the high wayes side, robberies by night in Marchants sellers by himselfe done foure and twentie seuerall times: and that no locke nor doore could withstand him, but by Witch-craft he could make it open.

Finally, he confessed that in his life time, he had by night fyered eight of his neighbours houses, whereby were burned in their beddes both men, women, and children, to the number of sixteene: besides diuers other mischiefes by him committed, to the great annoyances of the whole Countrey.

The

4° L. 70 Art

The Confession of Anne Gamperle.

ANne Gamperle his wife, of the age of three-score yeares, confessed that in her life time, she had murthered likewise by Witch-craft to the number of a hundred small children.

In like maner she confessed, that she had deformed and made crooked, and withall murdered by Witch-craft, to the number of nineteene olde people.

In like maner she confessed, that by Witch-craft she had caused an Inkeepers wife to runne into a hote burning Ouen, where she burned her selfe to death: and likewise caused the same womans husband to be so miserably vexed, that he thrust his head into a Swilling Tubbe full of Swines meate, and there smothered himselfe.

In like maner she confessed, that she had spoyled Cattle in great abundance, with Corne vpon the ground often times: and that she had set fier vpon two Hey stacks, which had fiered a whole Village, had not helpe of people preuented it. From the like, God of his mercie deliuer vs all.

The

The Confession of Simon Gamperle.

SImon Gamperle their naturall sonne, of the age of two and twentie yeares, confessed that he had murthered by Witchcraft, to the number of thirtie small Children, beside sixe old folkes which he likewise made crooked and lame, and after killed.

Moreouer he confessed, that he had committed nine Church robberies, foure robberies by the high way side, twelue robberies done in Marchants ware-houses: Ryot, and Pillage, committed by night sixe times: spoyled with Hayle and Tempests Cattel and Groundes often times.

Moreouer he confessed, that by Witch-craft he had made himselfe inuincible, by which meanes, he alone set vpon sixe persons at a time, and robbed them, and after killed them euery one: with many other practises of theft and murther, which here I omit.

The Confession of Iacob Gamperle.

IAcob Gamperle their other Sonne, of the age of one and twentie yeares, confessed that he had murthered to the number of three score and fiue small Children: beside fiue old folkes that he had made lame and crooked, and after murthered.

Moreouer, he confessed fiue Church robberies, ten Robberies in Marchants houses, foure Robbe-

ries

4° L. 70 Art

ries committed by the high way: fiue houses set on fire, Ryots and Thefts by night in the streetes, committed twelue seuerall times.

Moreouer he confessed, that by Witch-craft he had caused a heard of Cattell in a Tempest to be blowne into a riuer, and there drowned: and the said Tempest or storme to be so violent, that Trauellers could hardly trauell by the high way: with many other like wicked practises.

The Confession of Vllrich Schelltibaum.

VLlrich Schelltibaum of Dettwenge, of the age of three score and eight yeares, confessed that in his life time, he had murthered by Witch-craft to the number of three score and ten small children, and had made crooked and killed thirtie olde folkes.

Moreouer, he confessed Robberies in Churches, and Marchants Sellars, thefts and murthers by night, Cattell and Grounds spoyled, in such abundance and so often times, that he could not well reckon them.

The Confession of George Smaltes,

GEorge Smaltes Taylor of Peon, of the age of fiftie yeares, confessed in his life time he had murthered to the number of thirtie sixe small Children, beside olde people made crooked & killed the number of fiftæne: Murders by the high

way, Robberies in Villages, Fireing of Houses, Robbing of Churches, I thinke it needes not to number downe: but to conclude, it was his custome aboue the rest, to ransake by night dead mens graues, and to make pillage of what he there found whether it were linnen or otherwise: for badder liuers then these sixe were, I thinke are not now remayning vpon the earth. Therefore let all Christians pray, that God in his mercy may blesse vs & all others, from the like practises: and to weede from the face of the earth all such like offenders as he did these, and with the like shame and punishment reward them O God I beseeche thee.

These aforesayd confessions being taken before the Gouernour, and other Burgesses of the Cittie of Manchen, they were arraigned, conuicted, and condemned: and vpon the nine and twentie of July were executed in this maner and forme following.

First, they were all sixe brought before the towne house of Manchen, where the Woman (being placst betwixt her two Sonnes) had both her Brestes cut off: with the which Brestes, the Executioner stroke her three times about the face: and in like maner her two Sonnes, who sate on each side of her, were likewise beaten about the face with their mothers Brestes three times apeece. This beeing done in the presence of many people, the Woman had sixe stripes giuen her with a Whip of twisted Wier: and after, had both her Armes broken with a Wheele, and then set in a settle made of purpose:

her

4° L. 70 Art

her body was immediatly burnt.

After this, the other fiue men-Witches, had alſo ſixe ſtripes apeece, and both their Armes likewiſe broken with a Wheele, and foure of them tyed vnto a ſtake in the ſame place, and burnt: But Paule Gamperle, the father and maiſter Witch of them all, was ſpitted aliue, and ſo roaſted to death, and after had his body likewiſe burnt into ſinders.

Thus gentle Reader, haſt thou heard the life and death of theſe ſixe moſt notorious and wicked Witches. For the truth wherof, let no man make doubt: for it is not onely reported of by many men of good ſufficiencie, but tranſlated out of the Dutch Coppy as it was there firſt imprinted. Therefore let vs all in general, fall downe vpon our knees, and with contrite hartes, deſire of his Maieſtie, by whoſe ſufferance all theyr wicked practiſes were committed, that he will abate the pride and mallice of Sathan, now raigning amongſt mankind, and to put in our hartes ſuch ſtrong fayth, that the like aſſaultes neuer aſſayle vs, but that we may ſerue him in perfect loue and godlines, who is the mighty King of all Kinges: to whom be all prayſe, glory, and dominion, for euer. Amen.

FINIS.